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DOLGELLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1946

Printed by Gwasg "Y Dydd" Ltd., Dolgelley.

TO THE DOLGELLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr .Chairman, Mrs. Davies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my annual report upon the sanitary condition of your district during 1946.

The Dolgelley Rural District consists of 13 Parishes, and has an area of 150,128 acres. The resident population for the year 1946 is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 7,471.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year is estimated to be 2,207.

The rateable value at the same date was £27,003 and the sum represented by a penny product was £108 : 11 : 11.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births :			
Legitimate	101	53	48
Illegitimate	10	4	6
Still Births :			
Legitimate...	3	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	0

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rates per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

General Death-rate	15.24
Total Tuberculosis death-rate	0.66
"Phthisis" death-rate	0.66
Cancer death-rate	1.60
Birth rate	14.85
Still birth rate	0.53
Scarlet Fever death rate	Nil
Diphtheria death rate	0.26

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (live and still births).

Still Birth rate	34.78
Maternal mortality total	8.69
Sepsis	0.00
Other forms	0.00

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Infant mortality total	36.03
Legitimate infants	36.03
Illegitimate infants	0.00
Diarrhoea under two years	0.00

PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

1 M.O.H. (part-time); 1 Sanitary Inspector (Certificated Sanitary Inspector and meat and other foods Inspector) full time in conjunction with the Dolgelley Urban District Council. Under the new Health Services Acts the control of the Ambulance may be in the hands of the County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service is controlled by a joint committee of the Dolgelley Urban and Rural District and the Barmouth Urban District Council. An Ambulance to serve the three districts is stationed at Dolgelley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Abergynolwyn.—A scheme for the sewers and sewerage disposal works for the village of Abergynolwyn was the subject of an inquiry held during the year. The decision of the Board is not yet to hand.

Dyffryn.—A scheme for the sewers and sewerage disposal works for the village of Dyffryn was also the subject of an inquiry held during the year. The decision of the Board is not yet to hand.

Fairbourne.—The existing sewer and pumping plant was satisfactorily maintained during the year. The Council have instructed their Engineer to prepare a plan for an extension of the sewer to Friog.

Llwyngwril.—The existing sewer and sewerage scheme was satisfactorily maintained during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no industries in the district to pollute the rivers and streams. There are some careless individuals who insist on throwing tins and refuse into the streams. Warning notices are posted up in some localities to prevent this undesirable custom, but it is difficult to abolish it altogether.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Water Closets	470
Pail Closets	1903
Midden Privies	94
Chemical Closets	48

SCAVENGING.

The Council undertake the scavenging of the villages of Abergynolwyn, Aberllefenni, Arthog, Barmouth Junction, Upper and Lower Corris, Dyffryn, Fairbourne, Llwyngwril, Llanelltyd, Mallwyd and Talybont. Contractors are requested to provide a lorry or cart with a suitable cover and remove the refuse between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. Some difficulty is experienced in providing suitable sites for the disposal of refuse and attracting suitable persons to tender for the work, particularly where the collection includes the removal of pail contents.

The Council are searching the area for the selection of suitable sites for the disposal of refuse and inquiries are being made into the cost of the provision of a vehicle and staff to carry out the work by direct labour.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary in this respect during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action was necessary during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The supervision of the schools is carried out in close co-operation with the School Medical Officer, who is also the County Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Schemes have been submitted to the Board for the following villages :

Corris Uchaf, Corris Isa and Aberllefenni ;

Dinas Mawddwy, Minllyn, Mallwyd and Aberangell (supplementary supply).

Schemes are also in preparation for the villages of Brithdir, Llanelltyd, Ganllwyd, Penmaenpool and Llanymawddwy.

WATER SUPPLIES

Villages	Supply	No. of Samples	Bact. Exam.	Treatment	Chemical Exam.	Treatment	Houses Stand-pipe	Houses connected to main	Remarks
Aberangell	insufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	53	28	Council's Engineer preparing supplementary scheme
Abergynolwyn	Sufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	61	43	Satisfactorily maintained
Boniddu	Sufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	40	40	Do. do
Barmouth Junct.	Sufficient	1	Sat.	Filter Beds (Pressure)	Sat.	Chlorination & Lime Plant	—	30	Do. do.
Dyffryn	Sufficient	3	Sat.	Do.	Sat.	Do.	47	250	Do. do.
Corris	insufficient	5	Unsat.	None	P. Solvent	—	198	30	Scheme submitted to the Board
Llanegryn	Sufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	60	81	Satisfactorily maintained
Llanelltyd	insufficient	2	Sat.	None	—	—	9	8	A new scheme in preparation
Llanfachreth	insufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	—	—	Scheme submitted to the Board
Llwyngwril	Sufficient	9	Sat.	Filter Beds (Pressure	Sat.	Chlorination & Lime Plant	13	43	Satisfactorily maintained
Talybont	insufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	—	54	Supplementary supply necessary
Taicynhaeaf	Sufficient	1	Sat.	None	—	—	—	15	Satisfactorily maintained

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of formal notices issued	0
Total number of formal notices complied with ...	0
Total number of informal notices issued	2
Total number of informal notices complied with	2
Total number of new houses completed :—	
(a) by Local Authority	0
(b) by private enterprise	0
Number of Plans—New Houses	0
—Buildings	14
Visits to Bakehouses	14
Number of notices re defects	0
Visits to Cowheds	20
Number of visits re defects	14
Visits to Dairies	20
Number of notices re defects	0
Notice re removal of ashes	0
Removal of manure	0
Notices re defective drains	0
Number of visits to cases of Infectious Diseases	147
Number of houses disinfected	147
Number of defective water fittings	0
Of pail closets converted into W.C.—	
Total number of Water Closets	0
Pails Closets	0
Privies or other Closets	no record
Number of Closets serving more than one house	10
Milk samples taken for Ministry of Health ...	0
Milk samples taken for County Council	0

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The Council have charged the Sanitary Inspector with the duty of directing and supervising the inspection, survey and keeping records, and have appointed two assistants to carry out the survey.

Progress at the end of 1946.

(1) Houses fit for habitation or need minor repairs ..	552
(2) Houses requiring structural alteration and repairs	230
(3) Houses requiring reconditioning	60
(4) Houses unfit for occupation	410
Unclassified	300
	1,552

The Council have accepted tenders and works are in progress for the erection of 12 permanent houses at Abergynolwyn, 8 Swedish houses at Dyffryn and 4 Swedish houses

at Brithdir. Tenders have also been accepted for the erection of 8 permanent houses at Llanegryn.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 969

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1049

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 226

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation . . 290

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... . nil

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Acts 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after serving of formal notice :

(a) By Owners ... ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts 1936 ... ... nil

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... nil

4.—Housing Acts, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—

No action was possible during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The cowsheds and dairies in many cases need improvement in structure to provide better light, increased ventilation, impervious stalls better water supplies and drainage systems. The difficulties with the smaller farms are many, but much improvement has been steadily made to meet modern requirements. On the whole, the cowsheds are clean, periodically limewashed and the standard of milk produced is good.

Meat.

No animals are slaughtered for human consumption in the area. The slaughtering is carried out at the abattoir situated in the Dolgelley Urban Council's Area.

Bakehouses.

All these are small and subject to periodical inspection. They are kept clean and are limewashed at intervals There are no underground bake-houses.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out for this Authority at the Public Health Laboratories, Aberystwyth both for water and milk.

Workshops.

These are a few in number and are very small. They are occupied for the most part by the Owner. Their sanitary conditions are on the whole satisfactory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1946.

In my report for 1945 I stated that the Authority was greatly concerned about the recurring outbreak at Abergynolwyn. Of the 37 cases notified this year the majority occurred at Abergynolwyn, Corris, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril, and co-incided with a similar outbreak at Towyn. Most of the inhabitants at Abergynolwyn have been immunised and the School Medical Service has been actively engaged in giving 're-inforcement doses' to children of school age.

At the time of writing, the outbreak seems to be dying out.

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	5	0	0
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	6	0	0
Diphtheria	37	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	0	2
Whooping Cough	18	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1946 are as follows :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
55	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	8	5	1	0	2	3	0	0

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me during the year by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Idwal Roberts.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

Cae'r Ffynnon,
Dolgelley.

R. W. EDWARDS,
B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.